

PTO/SB/DBa/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2003. OMB 0851-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/718,592 |
| | | | | Filing Date | November 24, 2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Umberto Scarpellini |
| | | | | Art Unit | 2839 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 22106-00048-US |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.* | Document Number Number-Kind Code* if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| 111 | AA | US-4,597,627 | 07-01-1986 | Ulrich et al. | |
| 111 | AB | US-6,332,813-B1 | 12-25-2001 | Okabe et al. | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.* | Foreign Patent Document Country Code*-Number-Kind Code* if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| 111 | BA | DE-196 51 981-A1 | 06-18-1998 | | T ^a |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ^aApplicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ^bSee Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ^cEnter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ^dFor Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ^eKind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ^fApplicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---|--|--|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.* | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | | | |
| 111 | CA | EP Search report dated 03/18/2004, EP 03078739.4, EPO | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

^aApplicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ^bApplicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|---------|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | 7/10/04 |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|---------|